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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/801,076	03/06/2001	Robert Olan Keith JR.	ABREAU-00108	5086

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CAM LINH T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 05/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/801,076

Applicant(s)

KEITH, ROBERT OLAN

Examiner

CamLinh Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/14/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is response to the RCE filed on 3/25/2005.
2. Applicant's amendments to claims 1 – 51 are acknowledged. Consequently, claims 1 – 51 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 – 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Witek et al (U.S. 6,253,188) in view of Mohammad Faisal (U.S. 6,094,652).

♦ As per claims 1, 13, 25, 37, 47, 51,

Witek et al discloses a method of organizing data within a searchable database comprising:

- "Generating a directory tree structure, therein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a designated category for each node and branches comprising links between the nodes" See Fig. 4, col. 11, lines 20 – 25, col. 18, lines 1 – 32. Each category corresponds to a node. All nodes are linked together.
- "Generating one or more pointers, wherein each pointer corresponds to a specific node and the pointer links the specific node to an item of data" See Fig. 4

- “Each pointer is categorized by a navigation path through the directory tree structure and by one or more set parameters, wherein the parameters are specific to the node” See col. 17, lines 15 – 19, col. 48, lines 62 – 67. Witek teaches that: “Web sites and associated pages are prepared with HTML and include "links" to other locations and resources on the Web, the links being the features which enables a user, as noted, to "navigate" from one point or information resource to another, thereby, providing the Web with its dynamic character (col. 23, lines 11 – 22.) Therefore, the link is used as pointer to access to the resource. Witek discloses a method to category documents by identifying the parameters and associated values (col. 50, lines 56 – 67). Based on these values, the document is assigned to a category, and created link to the document.
- “ Each parameter is set with a corresponding value associated with the data item thereby forming a set parameter” see Fig. 3, col. 15, lines 25 – 26, col. 51, lines 1 – 11.

Witek, however, does not clearly teach that “a first pointer corresponds to a first node located in a first navigation path through the directory tree structure, and the first node pointer is directed to a second node located in a second navigation path different than the first navigation path, thereby forming a cross-link between two nodes located in two different navigation paths”.

Faisal, on the other hand, discloses a method for retrieving information in a database system comprising plurality of nodes arranging in a hierarchical order (see the abstract of Faisal). Faisal teaches that nodes are connected by links (col. 5, lines 13 – 30, Faisal). As discussed above, links are pointers that point to another location. As seen in Fig. 5D and Fig. 6 of Faisal, there are plurality of cross-links between two nodes/documents. Therefore, Faisal clearly teaches that “a first pointer corresponds to a first node located in a first navigation path through the directory

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tree structure, and the first node pointer is directed to a second node located in a second navigation path different than the first navigation path, thereby forming a cross-link between two nodes located in two different navigation paths”.

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the teaching of Faisal into the system of Witek because the combination would provide the user search for more documents by using cross-link, and reduce the time in searching.

◆ As per claims 2, 14, 26, 38, the combination of Witek and Faisal disclose:

- “Each node within the directory tree structure includes a corresponding html address”

Witek teaches that: “Web sites and associated pages are prepared with HTML and include "links" to other locations and resources on the Web, the links being the features which enables a user, as noted, to "navigate" from one point or information resource to another, thereby, providing the Web with its dynamic character” (col. 23, lines 11 – 22 of Witek.)

◆ As per claims 3, 8, 15, 20, 27, 32, 39, 44, 48, the combination of Witek and Faisal disclose:

- “The item of data is web-based multimedia including one or more audio...formatted text”

See Fig. 4, 10 of Witek.

◆ As per claims 4 - 5, 16 – 17, 28 – 29, 40 – 41, the combination of Witek and Faisal disclose:

- “Navigating the directory tree structure and selecting a corresponding pointer to access a particular item of data within the searchable database” See Fig. 8 – 10 of Witek. A user can specify the resource by selecting a category and set up one or more set parameters as

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shown in Fig. 10 of Witek. In other words, the data item is accessed by a navigation path and parameters set.

- “ Navigating the directory tree structure... are performed utilizing a selective one or more search methodologies” “ A dichotomous key search” See Fig. 3, element 70, col. 16, lines 27 – 50, Fig. 10, element 144 – 146 of Witek. As defined in the Specification a “dichotomous key search” is used to instruct users given in an answer or question dialog, often yes or no answer (Specification, page 18, lines 6 – 8). In fig. 10, Witek also gives the users the options of answer questions by checking the boxes. Therefore, this search option is corresponding to the “dichotomous key search”. “ A parametric search” See Fig. 10, elements 154, 158, 160, 142, col. 30, lines 10 – 29 of Witek.

◆ As per claims 6, 18, 30, 42, the combination of Witek and Faisal disclose:

- “Nodes within the directory tree structure are added, edited, or deleted” See col. 50, lines 4 – 15 of Witek.

◆ As per claims 7, 19, 31, 43, the combination of Witek and Faisal disclose:

- “Links and pointers within the directory tree structure are added, redirected, or deleted” See col. 50, lines 4 – 15 of Witek.

◆ As per claims 9, 21, 33, 45, the combination of Witek and Faisal disclose:

- “The searchable database is distributed into more than one physical location” See Fig. 1, element 20, col. 9, lines 53 – col. 10, lines 5, col. 25, lines 37 – 44 of Witek.

◆ As per claims 10 – 12, 22 – 24, 34 – 36, 46, the combination of Witek and Faisal disclose:

- “Generating a directory tree structure and generating one or more pointers are performed by a server” See Fig. 1, 5A, col. 25, lines 13 – 33 of Witek.

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- “Establishing an Internet connection with the server”, and “The Internet connection is established with a computer system at a remote location from the server” See Fig. 5a, element 14, 24, col. 21, lines 15 – 20 of Witek.

◆ As per claims 49 – 50, the combination of Witek and Faisal disclose:

Claims 49 – 50 are rejected based on the rejection of claims 1- 12 above.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 - 51 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Dario Crosetto (U.S. 5,590,284) discloses a parallel processing data network of master and slave transputers controlled by a serial control network.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CamLinh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4024.

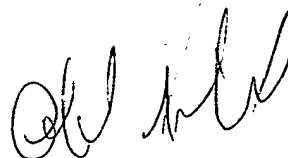
The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached on (571) 272 - 4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 305-3900,

Cam-Linh Nguyen
Art Unit 2171



ALFORD KINDRED
PRIMARY EXAMINER

LN